(c) if so, whether Government are aware of undue hardship faced by the CGHS beneficiaries to get the refund; and

(d) if so, whether any alternative system is under consideration of Government and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) No, Sir. Any drug prescribed by the Govt. Specialists, not available in the dispensary, is issued to the beneficiary after procuring the same from the Authorised Local chemist on the basis of the individual prescription of the beneficiary. In the case of emergency, an authority slip is issued to the beneficiary for collecting the medicine directly from the Authorised Local Chemist without making any payment.

Medical Colleges in J and K

1921. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of Medical Colleges both private and Government owned in J&K; and

(b) the details of health standard of the population in J&K?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY-WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) There are four medical colleges in the State of J and K. Out of which three colleges are in Govt, sector and one in private sector.

(b) "Health" being State subject no such data is being maintained by the Central Government.

Used syrings and disposable medical equipments

1922. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that a gang has been collecting used syringes and disposable medical equipments from hospitals and after cleaning, these are packed for supply to hospitals as reported in the Indian Express dated 10th January, 2003 and thereby becoming a health hazard;

(b) if so, the steps taken in this regard; and

(c) whether the existing laws and enforcing agencies are adequate to eliminate such a state of affairs in the country?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Delhi Police have informed that they have detected one such case and recovered a large quantity of used plastic syringes, nozzles and other surgical items. Delhi Police is investigating the case.

Ministry of Environment and Forests has notified Bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) rules, 1998 in this regard. As per these Rules, the respective State Pollution control boards/Pollution control committees are the prescribed authorities for their effective implementation. In so far as Central Government Hospitals *viz.* Dr. RML Hospital, Safdarjung Hospital and Lady Hardinge Medical College and Associated Hospitals as also the All India Institute of Medical Sciences are concerned, the hospital waste including syringes and other disposables is disposed of in accordance with the provisions of bio-Medical Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1998.

Law to stop sale of kidney

†1923. SHRIMATI SAVITA SHARDA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of alleged illegal trade of Kidneys;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether some persons have been arrested in this regard;

(d) if so, the action taken against such persons;

(e) whether Government propose to take some stringent steps to prevent such illegal and inhuman trade of Kidneys; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (f) The information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.